

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2621

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the establishment of a pediatric research initiative.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 27, 1999

Mr. GREENWOOD (for himself, Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, and Mr. OSE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the establishment of a pediatric research initiative.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the "Pediatric Research Ini-
5 tiative Act of 1999".

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

8 (1) innovations in health care, deriving from
9 scientific investigation of the highest quality, offer

1 substantial benefits to the well-being of children and
2 savings in health care costs;

3 (2) findings in pediatric research not only pro-
4 mote and maintain health throughout a child's life-
5 span, but also contribute significantly to new in-
6 sights and discoveries that will aid in the prevention
7 and treatment of illnesses and conditions among
8 adults;

9 (3) the rapidly expanding knowledge base in bi-
10 ology and medicine is offering greater opportunities
11 than ever for pediatric physician-scientists and basic
12 researchers to harness this knowledge to the benefit
13 of children and society;

14 (4) the relatively smaller number of children
15 compared as to adults and the relative rarity of
16 many of their diseases and conditions has resulted in
17 comparatively fewer resources being devoted to pedi-
18 atric research and a lesser focus on children's needs;

19 (5) substantially more of the support for chil-
20 dren's health research is provided through the Fed-
21 eral Government than is the case for adults because
22 of these market forces;

23 (6) a new commitment to invest in children's
24 research today will make a real difference for chil-
25 dren tomorrow;

1 (7) the commitment to invest in children's re-
2 search should include not only added investment
3 that is devoted to pediatric research but should also
4 focus on ensuring the existence of a future supply of
5 pediatric physician-scientists;

6 (8) the supply of pediatric physician-scientists
7 is threatened by market demands which provide little
8 room for support for research training for new pedi-
9 atric physician-scientists;

10 (9) over 60 percent of the pediatric depart-
11 ments in the United States have no National Insti-
12 tutes of Health training grant support; and

13 (10) improvements in the level of training grant
14 support is essential to ensuring the existence of fu-
15 ture generations of pediatric clinical investigators
16 who are responsible for moving research discoveries
17 from the laboratories to the patients, and who are
18 therefore critical to clinical research.

19 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF A PEDIATRIC RESEARCH INI-**
20 **TIATIVE.**

21 Part A of title IV of the Public Health Service Act
22 (42 U.S.C. 281 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
23 the following:

1 **"SEC. 404F. PEDIATRIC RESEARCH INITIATIVE.**

2 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall estab-
3 lish within the Office of the Director of NIH a Pediatric
4 Research Initiative (referred to in this section as the ‘Ini-
5 tiative’). The Initiative shall be headed by the Director
6 of NIH.

7 “(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Initiative is to
8 provide funds to enable the Director of NIH to
9 encourage—

10 “(1) increased support for pediatric biomedical
11 research within the National Institutes of Health to
12 ensure that the expanding opportunities for advance-
13 ment in scientific investigations and care for chil-
14 dren are realized;

15 “(2) enhanced collaborative efforts among the
16 Institutes to support multidisciplinary research in
17 the areas that the Director deems most promising;
18 and

19 “(3) the development of adequate pediatric clin-
20 ical trials and pediatric use information to promote
21 the safer and more effective use of prescription
22 drugs in the pediatric population.

23 “(c) DUTIES.—In carrying out subsection (b), the Di-
24 rector of NIH shall—

25 “(1) consult with the Institute of Child Health
26 and Human Development and the other Institutes,

1 in considering their requests for new or expanded
2 pediatric research efforts, and consult with other ad-
3 visors as the Director determines appropriate;

4 “(2) have broad discretion in the allocation of
5 any Initiative assistance among the Institutes,
6 among types of grants, and between basic and clin-
7 ical research so long as the—

8 “(A) assistance is directly related to the ill-
9 nesses and conditions of children; and

10 “(B) assistance is extramural in nature;
11 and

12 “(3) be responsible for the oversight of any
13 newly appropriated Initiative funds and annually re-
14 port to Congress and the public on the extent of the
15 total extramural support for pediatric research
16 across the NIH, including the specific support and
17 research awards allocated through the Initiative.

18 “(d) AUTHORIZATION.—To carry out this section,
19 there is authorized to be appropriated in the aggregate,
20 \$50,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2000 through
21 2002.

22 “(e) TRANSFER OF FUNDS.—The Director of NIH
23 may transfer amounts appropriated under this section to
24 any of the Institutes for a fiscal year to carry out the pur-
25 poses of the Initiative under this section.”.

1 SEC. 4. INVESTMENT IN TOMORROW'S PEDIATRIC RE-
2 SEARCHERS.

3 Subpart 7 of part C of title IV of the Public Health
4 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 285g et seq.) is amended by adding
5 at the end the following:

6 "SEC. 452E. INVESTMENT IN TOMORROW'S PEDIATRIC RE-
7 SEARCHERS.

8 "(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make avail-
9 able within the National Institute of Child Health and
10 Human Development enhanced support for extramural ac-
11 tivities relating to the training and career development of
12 pediatric researchers.

13 "(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of support provided
14 under subsection (a) shall be to ensure the future supply
15 of researchers dedicated to the care and research needs
16 of children by providing for—

17 "(1) an increase in the number and size of in-
18 stitutional training grants to medical school pedi-
19 atric departments and children's hospitals; and

20 "(2) an increase in the number of career devel-
21 opment awards for pediatricians building careers in
22 pediatric basic and clinical research.

23 "(c) AUTHORIZATION.—To carry out this section,
24 there is authorized to be appropriated, \$10,000,000 for

- 1 fiscal year 2000, \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2001, and
- 2 \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2002.”.

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